



Chelmsford High School

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Dear Community Members,

Students in grades 8 and 11 will be participating in an Action Civics Project throughout May and June. Students in our 11th grade Modern United States History course will learn about public policy, the research process, and how to take informed and effective action in their community. 8th grade students will spend the fourth quarter focused on similar elements while conducting research for their version of the project. This process ensures that we are embedding not only the study of civics, but also the opportunity for students to engage with our community in a variety of meaningful ways.

Our process is modeled after the national Project Citizen program created by the Center for Civic Education. Students will work on a focus problem through the following tasks:

Task 1 – Conduct research to thoroughly explain a public policy issue **Task 2** – Identify several solutions to the issue and weigh the advantages and disadvantages of each **Task 3** – Propose a public policy solution that requires action and does not violate provisions of state or federal constitutions **Task 4** – Propose an action plan that can be used to encourage appropriate community and/or government agencies to adopt the proposed public policy

Some work will be completed individually, in small groups, and as a whole class. Through this process, students will gain a deeper understanding of how our community, state, and federal governments function. They will also develop critical reading and media literacy skills, while strengthening their research, collaboration, and communication abilities. A selection of student work will be posted on our district website in June and can serve as a resource for information, innovation, and community collaboration.

As part of the project, some students may need to connect with decision-makers and community members. This year, we are working to streamline communications so that no single person or department is overwhelmed with emails from our students and staff. At the high school level, we will host two 40-minute panel discussions on **Thursday, May 21st** and **Tuesday, May 26th**. If you work in town government or with a local community organization and are interested in participating in one of these panels, please reach out to me, Stephanie Quinn, at quinns@chelmsford.k12.ma.us no later than **May 15th**. We sincerely appreciate your time, effort, and willingness to support student inquiry in civic matters.

For more information about the Civics Action Project, please visit our [district website](#). Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly.

Kind Regards,

Stephanie Quinn M.A.T., C.A.G.S

K-12 History and Social Science Department Coordinator